

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: CHANCE TO SIMPLIFY JAPANESE CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND
FACILITATE IMPORTS

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY SEES GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE ONE
OF THE MOST TROUBLESOME BARRIERS TO IMPORTS INTO JAPAN --
JAPANESE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCEDURES. NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF JAPANESE CUSTOMS BUREAU WANTS TO SENT TEAM OF JAPANESE
CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO U.S. TO STUDY U.S. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE
PROCEDURES. EMBASSY HOPES WASHINGTON AGENCIES CAN GIVE HIGH
PRIORITY TO WORKING OUT A PROGRAM FOR JAPANESE CUSTOMS THAT
WILL STRESS A FLEXIBLE, NON-BUREAUCRATIC, FACILITATIVE
APPROACH TO CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING JUNE 30 COURTESY CALL ON IWAO TOTSUKA, NEW
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF JAPANESE CUSTOMS BUREAU, ECON MINISTER
RAISED SUBJECT OF JAPANESE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION, NOTING
MANY U.S. BUSINESS MEN COMPLAIN OVERZEALOUS APPLICATION OF
JAPANESE CUSTOMS REGULATIONS "REPRESENTS GOJ EFFORT TO KEEP
OUT IMPORTS." TOTSUKA, SAYING THAT HIS BUREAU COULD LEARN
MUCH FROM A STUDY OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN CUSTOMS
ADMINISTRATION, PROPOSED SENDING A GOJ-FINANCED STUDY
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MISSION OF JAPANESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO U.S. TO STUDY
U.S. CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION.

3. WE REGARD THIS AS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO AMELIORATE
ONE OF THE MOST TROUBLESOME BARRIERS TO U.S. IMPORTS
INTO JAPAN. WE HOPE WASHINGTON AGENCIES CAN WORK OUT
SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR JAPANESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WHICH

WILL STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF A MODERN, FLEXIBLE,
NON-BUREAUCRATIC, FACILITATIVE APPROACH TO CUSTOMS
ADMINISTRATION.

4. IN RELATED MATTER, TOTSUKA ALSO AGREED TO ALLOW
EMBASSY TEAM TO STUDY JAPANESE CUSTOMS PROCEDURES SO
WE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO COUNSEL U.S.
BUSINESSMEN EXPERIENCEING PROBLEMS WITH JAPANESE
CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. WE ALSO ANTICIPATE THAT DURING THE
COURSE OF THIS STUDY WE WILL UNCOVER A NUMBER OF
PROBLEM AREAS WHICH CAN BE COMPARED TO U.S. PROCEDURES
DURING JAPANESE TRIP TO U.S.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CON-
TACT CUSTOMS SERVICE AND URGE THEM TO HOST STUDY GROUP
OF JAPANESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FOR TWO-THREE WEEK PERIOD.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT CUSTOMS HAS REGULAR PROGRAMS FOR
DEVELOPING NATIONS, BUT A SPECIAL PROGRAM WOULD BE
NECESSARY FOR JAPAN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
PROMPT WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THE FORM THIS STUDY TRIP
MIGHT TAKE,SO WE CAN DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL FURTHER
WITH JAPANESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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